

House Resolution 1949

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132nd, Hugley of the 133rd, Smith of the 131st, Buckner of the 130th, and Smith of the 129th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the drugfighters and drugfighting groups in Columbus; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, illegal drugs and associated crime can destroy families and neighborhoods of
3 all economic and social strata; and

4 WHEREAS, when several Columbus neighborhoods became infested with drug dealing in
5 1994, neighbors wanted to take their streets back. In collaboration with the Columbus Police
6 Department, local businessman Ronzell Buckner brought national drugfighters Herman
7 Wrice and Andy Garr to Columbus; and

8 WHEREAS, through ongoing targeted antidrug marches and "camp outs," BAD (Bellwood
9 Against Drugs), CAD (Columbus Against Drugs), CHAD (Carver Heights Against Drugs),
10 DFOC (Drug Fighters Of Columbus), EHAD (East Highland Against Drugs), LGAD
11 (Liberty Garden Against Drugs), PHAD (Peabody Homes Against Drugs), ORAD (Operation
12 Restoration Against Drugs), SCAD (South Columbus Against Drugs), SWAD
13 (Southwestview Against Drugs), TVAD (Teens Against Drugs), and WOTMAD (Winterfield
14 On The Move Against Drugs) stopped street level drug trafficking and turned their
15 neighborhoods around; several became catalysts for community and economic development,
16 spawning youth entrepreneurship, a "Reclaim Our Children" after-school program, youth
17 baseball and football teams, and attracting new home development; and

18 WHEREAS, the drugfighting success of several Columbus neighborhoods inspired dramatic
19 community and economic transformation helping to give birth to a new name for the
20 Neighborhoods Against Drugs effort, Turn Around America—The Wrice Process Movement;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the work that the drugfighters, along with the Columbus Police Department,
23 Sheriff's Department, Marshal's Office and the city, have done over the past 13 years is

1 nothing short of phenomenal and represents a remarkable partnership of community, law
2 enforcement, and city government; and

3 WHEREAS, among the over 400 Turn Around America–Wrice Process drugfighting
4 communities in the United States, Columbus has many drugfighting firsts, including: first
5 national drugfighters reunion; first with three different law enforcement entities involved;
6 first to include code inspectors and pardons and parole officers on marches; first with active
7 drugfighters over 80; first in city councilors involved for the longest period; first to have
8 drugfighters involved in redesigning public housing into a model mixed income community;
9 first Antidrug World Series Baseball Tournament; first in members named to National
10 Drugfighters Hall of Fame; and first in number of new homes built in former drug area; and

11 WHEREAS, in areas where drug dealers are trying to take hold again, drugfighters have
12 launched the Turn Around Columbus–Wrice Process Campaign, to give
13 drugfighters/drugfighting groups the opportunity to focus on hot spots to stop drug
14 trafficking and turn around or take away hiding spots and opportunities for trouble; and

15 WHEREAS, the Columbus drugfighting efforts have received support from many businesses
16 and organizations, several of which have shown outstanding support, including George
17 Washington Carver High School, New Bethel Seventh Day Adventists Church, Muhammad
18 Mosque #96, Masjid An-Nur Mosque, Charlie Company volunteers (2nd Battalion 58th
19 Infantry Regiment from Ft. Benning), East Columbus Boys & Girls Club, Davis
20 Broadcasting, Project Rebound, Citizen’s Trust, Alexander’s Grocery, Williamson’s
21 Restaurant, and Skipper’s Seafood; and

22 WHEREAS, many Columbus drugfighters have helped provide Turn Around
23 America–Wrice Process training for other neighborhoods in Georgia, South Carolina,
24 Florida, and Texas; and

25 WHEREAS, because of their willingness to take a stand and their unending, uncompromising
26 work in all weather and under all conditions Columbus drugfighters are true American heroes
27 and Columbus is becoming a national leader in transforming neighborhoods through
28 drugfighting.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend the Columbus drugfighters for their outstanding

1 leadership, tenacity, commitment, and courage in taking their neighborhoods back from the
2 terrorism of drugs and giving children and youth a positive future.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body also commend the Columbus
4 Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Marshal's Office, and Mayor and City Council for
5 their long-term support and commitment to the Columbus drugfighters.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each of the drugfighting
8 groups and the Columbus Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Marshal's Office, and
9 Mayor and City Council.